

**Subject:** Fall YAF and Family News from NYYM Young Adult Field Secretary  
**From:** Gabrielle Savory Bailey, Young Adult Field Secretary <nnyym.yafs@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 10/9/14, 4:47 PM  
**To:** <paul@nnyym.org>

You are getting this newsletter because you have expressed interest in Young Adult Friends and Families in NY Yearly Meeting. In this newsletter you will find important and interesting information about upcoming events.

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## Hello Friends!

I am sitting and watching the trees turn, and I cannot believe that fall is here and in full swing. It is wondrous. I hope you all get a chance to walk outside, and take in the breathtaking changes all around us. Truly Miraculous.

As I write this, I am also preparing to go on Maternity leave tomorrow. I will be on leave from October 10-early February. I will not be reachable via facebook, or email during that time. BUT I have not left you high and dry. NO! Here are some

important contacts that you might want to know about.

**Helen Garay Toppins** is in the NY Yearly Meeting office. She is eager to be of help, should you have any questions at all. She will also be scheduling my visits and mini retreats for when I return from leave. ([link to article below](#)) She is a valuable resource, and has said she wants to be of service. She also is helping to coordinate the survey that I am conducting in my absence. ( [link to article below](#)) AND if that weren't enough, she is a font of knowledge about Fall Sessions coming up November 14-16 in NYC! ([yes, you guessed it, see article below](#) :) ) You can reach Helen at office@nyym.org or by phone, 212-673-5750.

**Christopher Sammond**, the General Secretary of NYYM, is also available for concerns, especially those that involve monthly meetings and Personal or Pastoral concerns. He is available at nyym.gensec@gmail.com.

Are you interested in writing for Spark? or info share? Have an event you want publicized? **Steve Davison** is your man! He is the communications coordinator. you can get in touch with him at steve@nyym.org.

### **So what do YOU need to know about while I am gone?**

1. When I return in 2015, We will be reapplying for a grant to fund my position, and the work around YAF and families. This is a BIG DEAL. We need all the information we can get about how this work is going. THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN.

PLEASE fill out the survey ([info below](#).) [The direct link to the survey is here](#). We need to have between 100-150 responses to make it statistically significant.

PLEASE spread the word, and get as many YAF and people who have young families to fill it out! You can call other YAF and encourage them to fill out too! If you took the one 2 years ago, and feel you have "aged out" please still take it! [You can find out more below or by clicking this link](#)

***We also need testimonials about the work we have been doing around YAF and young families, from people of all ages.***

--How have you seen changes in the Yearly Meeting and your monthly meeting since this position was created 4 years ago?

--How have you personally been touched by the work around YAF and families?

--What has made an impact on you?

--What do you wish to see more of?

--What can you say about the work Gabi has been doing, on a personal or wider level?

**Any feedback you have can be sent to Christopher Sammond**

**nyym.gensec@gmail.com** It can be anonymous to me and the YM if you do not want to be identified.

***It would be SO WONDERFUL to have all this done while I am out. This grant is really important, and will likely decide if the position is to continue or not.***

2. The YAF mini retreats will be continuing, but only if meetings agree to host.

Please, help me by helping to find meetings to host and letting Helen know. This would be great to have done before the end of the year, so we can publicize it. Want to know more about the YAF mini retreats? [Click here.](#)

3. Fall Sessions is coming to NYC, on November 14-16. This is great! NYC is easy to get to from so many places. There are a lot of YAF in NYC. AND it is a great way to meet other YAF and see the Yearly Meeting in action. There will be an AMAZING youth program, and speakers and worship and business. PLEASE consider coming. Bring another YAF from your meeting too! You can come for as little or as much as you want. [Click here for the article below.](#)

Other dates to put on your calendar for 2015

--February 27- March 1, Creativity and Spirituality weekend at Powell House. I can't say enough about this. You do not have to have a craft to go. It is all about how creativity and Spirituality inform each other. It is a weekend of sounds, textures, color, movement and creating in community. I cannot recommend it enough! [Visit the website page.](#)

--April 10-12. Spring Sessions. check in Spark and on [www.nyyym.org](http://www.nyyym.org) for more info as it becomes available.

--May 2 YAF Mini retreat at Adirondack Friends Meeting in Glens Falls, NY. YAY!

--May 15-17 Farmington Scipio Spring gathering . If you are part of Farmington Scipio, this is a great gathering!

--July 19-25 Summer Sessions at Silver Bay.

I wish you all a glorious Fall, a peaceful winter, and a wonderful New Year. I look

forward to a 2015 filled with Spirit, Fellowship and seeing as many of you as I can.

Peace,  
Gabi



**Back by popular demand! YAF Mini retreats will continue in 2015!**

This year in NY Yearly Meeting we started a new model of retreat/gatherings for YAF. We heard loud and clear the barriers that keep many YAF and families from attending retreats/conferences, and we started trying to release those barriers.

They are:

Time/Scheduling,  
distance, cost and  
childcare.



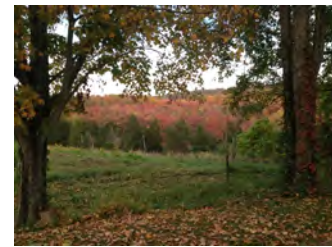
**An Important Survey is being conducted! BE COUNTED!**

Most of you know that I am conducting a survey, many of you have already taken it.

THANK YOU! at the time of this writing we had 73 responses. We need between 100-150. Here is a little more information about why it is important and how to complete the survey. This is important and a chance to have your voice and your experiences heard!

**WHO?**

*Are you affiliated with NY*



**Fall Sessions is coming to NYC on November 14-16!**

***Why should you care?***

In truth I like Fall and spring sessions as much, or sometimes more than Summer Sessions. WHAT?? Yup. It's the truth. WHY??

--Fall Sessions is a time to catch up with people that I haven't seen for a while.

Here's what we came up with so far. We created a retreat model that:

- is truly only a day, so that it fits with busy schedules. The retreat runs from 9:15-5 with the possibility of local hospitality or fellowship after the retreat if desired by participants.
- moves around NYYM so that participants need not travel more than 2 hours from their homes to attend.
- is a Pay-as-Led system. No one should stay away due to lack of funds. We have a suggested donation of \$15-20, but Friends are welcome to pay more or less as able and willing.
- provides food. No one needs to prep a potluck dish to come. :)
- provides child care, with advanced notice of at least a week.
- includes fellowship, as well as Spirit-Led work.

The theme this year was the practice of Discernment. I plan that in 2015 I will look at

*Yearly Meeting? AND*

*Do you identify as a Young Adult Friend?*

*(18-35 ish?)*

*Are you the parent of young children?*

*Did you take a YAF survey 2 years ago?*

*(even if you have "aged out"...)*

*Do you know someone who fits these criteria?*

*If so...*

*We hope you can help us!*

**Why?**

This survey is to help collect stories, information, Truths, perspectives, needs, wants, and successes. This information will inform the grants we write to fund the Young Adult Field Secretary's work, but also, and more importantly to communicate to the monthly, regional and yearly Meetings the voices, experiences and perspectives of YAF and parents of young families. From these responses we can develop programs, arrange support, and consider changes and directions for NY Yearly Meeting. We are very grateful for EVERY RESPONSE we get. The results of the past survey have been invaluable.

--It is a shorter and less expensive commitment than Summer Sessions.

--It travels around NY, NJ and CT. There will be one near you soon!

--I get to meet new people

--I get to have hospitality with people I have never met, or want to know better. I love staying in other people's homes.

--Some of the most gathered worship I have had has happened at Fall and Spring Sessions. Truth.

--I get to visit committees, and hear about what is going on, with NO PRESSURE TO JOIN A COMMITTEE! It's like a buffet!

-- I get to be part of business meeting, which I like, and hear what is happening in the Yearly Meeting. Even the budget stuff is interesting. And if you have an interest in what leadings and initiatives are being done, it's a good place to listen and share your Light.

other Quaker practices and themes. I will approach the theme from a number of angles and methods, allowing for the variety of theology and worship tradition that is a part of our Yearly Meeting. --Does not require much, if anything, from the host Meeting, other than space, and a kitchen for meal storage, if possible.

The beauty of this model is that it allows for different sized groups, as well as different facilities, and is flexible to meet the space that is available at the host meeting. Very little is required of the host meeting, although, meetings are welcome to help with hospitality, if led. I have facilitated this new model 4 times in 2014. The size of the group ranged from 2-25 participants. Each was successful and meaningful regardless of size.

**When?**

The survey will be open until early February 2015, but why not get it done now?

**How?**

Go to the link below. You can invite anyone to use this link to participate in the survey.

SHARE IT!!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YAFSURVEY2014-15>

**Not in the age group, or already filled it out, but want to help??**

PLEASE spread the word! Circulate the information, talk it up. We are so grateful for all the support and help.

**THANK YOU!!!**

Questions about the survey can be directed to Helen in the NYYM office, office@gmail.com.

--They are feeding you this year at Fall Sessions. FOR FREE. --It is easy to say that things don't change in Quakerism, or in NYYM, but how have I/we engaged in the process to help that change? In what ways are we allowing ourselves to be absent from the organization we say needs to change? In what ways have we been present? Fall Sessions, heck, any of the sessions, are opportunities to engage with others, but more importantly with Spirit, so that we can live into what we want and need from our Spiritual body. --Fall sessions is a taste, in a non intimidating way, of dipping into that world you may have wondered about, or never felt there was a place for you (ie it's for other people) or have wished you knew more about, or have heard about or have watched from afar. --Plus, did I mention that

Here are some  
comments from  
participants:

“A deeper sense of  
where I am on my  
spiritual journey”

“Sometimes you need to  
take a break even when  
you have a lot to do.  
Taking time to connect  
with people who may be  
celebrating or struggling  
in the same ways is  
good for the soul!”

“The YAF Mini Retreat  
was an all-around great,  
uplifting, and  
empowering experience.  
The ability to fit a retreat  
into one Saturday was  
perfect for my busy  
schedule.”

“Among the paths that  
come out of the  
Christian tradition,  
Quakerism is unique in  
its emphasis on finding  
Gospel truths by  
discerning the light  
within. This retreat  
offered concrete tools to  
help us connect with the  
Inner teacher. I loved it.”

this fall sessions they  
are feeding you FOR  
FREE!!?!?!?

If you have questions, or  
want to register, you can  
visit the [Fall sessions  
page on the NYYM web  
site](#) Or call Helen  
at 212-673-5750. or email  
Helen at [office@nyym.org](mailto:office@nyym.org).

I hope you go, and  
enjoy it!

“Coming into the YAF space and knowing only two other people, I felt completely welcome within an hour. I came away feeling like I was newly part of a community, and returned to meeting on Sunday more comfortable than I had been before.”

“The Mini-Retreat allows attendees to renew one's journey into the exploration of relationships to one other and the light that is God within each of us and in our communities. The vulnerability of mind and spirit that allows the strength of fellowship to form among Friends is at the core of the mini-retreat.”

“There are many ways to practice Quakerism within ourselves, our community and the world. The retreat provided a chance to explore a few of many skills and practices that we can work on as a



group. I also sensed a great calling energy to the adults who attended, I sense a spirit of wanting to explore and do more.”

“The clearness committee experience has shown me a new way to make decisions.”

SO, now we look forward to 2015. Gabi will be taking a maternity leave beginning October 10 2014-Early February 2015. The goal is to have at least 6 mini retreats in NYYM by the end of 2015.

**I HOPE YOU CAN HELP ME! Please let me know if your monthly meeting would be interested in scheduling and hosting a YAF mini retreat. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AS MANY AS I CAN SCHEDULED BY DECEMBER, so we can publicize effectively. I am looking especially in**

**Farmington Scipio  
Regional Meeting,  
Butternuts Quarterly  
Meeting, Northeastern  
Quarterly Meeting,  
Nine Partners, and  
Purchase Quarterly  
Meetings. I am also  
looking for Friends  
who might co-facilitate  
with me, or serve as  
elders or prayerful  
presences,  
remembering that I will  
be travelling with a  
young baby. Please  
spread this invitation  
to as many folks as  
you are led. Please  
contact Helen Garay  
Toppins in the NYYM  
office to schedule a  
2015 mini retreat!**

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